



Citizens Environmental Committee

Report & Recommendations on **Commercial Recycling**

City Council Meeting

January 20, 2009

Citizens Environmental Committee

- Terry Gratton, chair
- Roger Behgam
- David Berg
- Richard Browning
- Grace Darling
- Glen Dixon
- Michelle Licaster
- Mike Maddock
- Roy Miliner
- Dirk Taylor

Council Assignment:

Commercial Recycling

- Began this cycle in April 2008
- Commercial recycling included multi-family or apartments – CEC needed two separate approaches/programs
- Commercial recycling was researched by
 - Roger Behgam – construction
 - Michael Bobo – industrial/manufacturing
 - Roy Miliner – office/high-rise
 - Glen Dixon – regulatory model
 - Environmental Services – methods use in Chicago, Euless & Plano

Firsthand Observations

- Committee toured the Abitibi-Bowater recycling facility May 30th



Recommendations:

1. Evaluate modifying current enclosure requirement by allowing a parking variance for existing businesses to place a commercial recycling bin
2. Consider website listings of third-party locations where recyclable items not currently allowed through curbside program can be taken

Recommendations:

3. Research programs and strategies to reduce product packaging
 - CEC recognizes that formal product stewardship programs extend beyond Arlington's jurisdiction
4. Consider placing decals or markings on the side of curbside recycling bin listing acceptable items
 - Current bins display watering restrictions - next order could incorporate acceptable items

Recommendations:

5. Consider adding an educational statement to the City's website that pizza boxes can be composted
6. Consider encouraging legislation supporting a statewide bottle bill/container deposit law

Recommendations:

7. Consider adding more leaf collection locations as well as relocating collection dumpsters at JW Dunlop Park to impede landscape contractors from using them
8. Identify on-going funding for a Commercial Recycling Coordinator

Recommendations:

9. Encourage increased involvement of other recycling companies and charitable organization in community cleanup campaigns
10. Modify building ordinances to require commercial buildings four stories or higher that install internal refuse chutes to also install a recycling chute

Recommendations:

11. Modify commercial building ordinances to require redevelopment and new construction to incorporate enclosure areas for commercial recycling
12. Modify the current solid waste ordinance to require a permit of recycling haulers
 - Include a collection tonnage report to Environmental Services

Recommendations:

13. Revise current commercial properties building ordinances to require recycling of at least 50% construction and demolition debris (Chicago program)
14. Establish partnerships with retailers and shopping centers to increase the number of single-stream recycling drop-off sites

Recommendations:

15. Encourage large venue and public events concessions to incorporate green purchasing and recycling by providing on-site collection of single stream items

Summary and Conclusion

- This report is intended to provide City Council with a reasonable, timely and cost effective measures to increase the life of the present landfill, decrease the need for additional land and demonstrate the city's awareness and willingness to address conservation issues, environmental stewardship